

Musbury Moles Pre-School

Musbury School, Musbury, AXMINSTER, Devon, EX13 8BB



Inspection date

7 July 2015

Previous inspection date

7 December 2011

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Requires improvement	3
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Good	2
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- Staff keep their first-aid and safeguarding knowledge up-to-date through training opportunities. However, staff have not completed any recent training to help improve the quality of teaching. Consequently, staff do not always provide children with sufficient challenge to support and extend their learning.
- Staff do not make good use of their observations and assessments of children's learning to plan activities which help them to achieve their next steps. As a result, some children do not make good progress in all areas of learning.
- The quality of teaching is variable. Staff do not always adapt small group activities to suit different ages and abilities.

It has the following strengths

- Staff build good partnerships with parents, which contributes to meeting children's care needs effectively.
- Children form secure attachments with their key person and staff. Staff interact warmly with the children, giving them lots of praise and encouragement. This supports them emotionally and builds their confidence and self-esteem.
- Staff have a good understanding about safeguarding children. They are able to identify the signs or symptoms that may be a concern and are clear on the reporting procedure to follow.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- ensure all staff update knowledge and professional development to improve practice further, particularly to support children's speech and language
- improve the use of observation, assessment and planning to ensure activities are tailored to children's individual learning needs.

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- ensure that all group activities are adapted for the different ages of children participating.

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed the quality of teaching and the impact on children's learning.
- The inspector completed a joint observation with the manager.
- The inspector sampled a range of documentation, including assessment records.
- The inspector held meetings with the manager and chairperson and spoke with staff and children.
- The inspector took account of the views of parents spoken to on the day of the inspection.

Inspector

Michelle Tuck

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This requires improvement

Staff plan a variety of activities indoors and outside, which helps children to make some progress in their learning. Staff observe and assess the children's progress regularly. However, they do not use this information effectively to promote children's next steps in learning. For example, at the inspection, some children helped to create a fish tank. Younger children enjoyed exploring the resources and recognised different colours. However, older children quickly lost interest, as the activity did not provide them with appropriate levels of challenge and staff do not use effective questioning to keep them engaged. Nonetheless, children enjoy their time at the pre-school. They enjoy a variety of sensory experiences, such as using different cooking utensils and digging in the soil as they play in the mud kitchen. They explore different sized containers and tubes to investigate the water play. Staff introduced positional language as the children played with blocks, small people and dinosaurs. This helps to develop children's language and supports their mathematical development.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children is good

Children build good relationships with the staff and with one another. They play cooperatively and learn to manage their behaviour successfully. Children play in a well-resourced and organised environment. They benefit from fresh air and exercise on a daily basis, developing their physical skills in an exciting and challenging outdoor space. Staff teach the children about the importance of a healthy lifestyle. They follow thorough hygiene routines and understand the importance of doing this. Children learn to be independent in their self-care routines, which helps them in preparation for school.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

Robust recruitment and vetting procedures ensure appropriately qualified and suitable staff work with the children. Effective supervision meetings and yearly appraisals with staff ensure continuous suitability and provide some opportunities for staff to discuss their professional development. However, this is not focused enough on raising the quality of teaching. Although staff keep their safeguarding and first-aid training up to date, they do not access other training opportunities to improve outcomes in children's learning. Management and staff use self-evaluation to drive improvement in some areas and they have fully addressed the recommendations set at the last inspection. Effective partnerships working with professionals, schools and other early years providers support children's continuity of care and learning. Parents are extremely happy with the pre-school provision and the progress that their children make.

Setting details

Unique reference number	EY431142
Local authority	Devon
Inspection number	1018315
Type of provision	Full-time provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	0 - 8
Total number of places	20
Number of children on roll	29
Name of provider	Musbury Moles Pre-School Committee
Date of previous inspection	7 December 2011
Telephone number	07763173816

Musbury Moles Pre-School registered in 2011. It operates from Musbury Primary School hall in Musbury, near Axminster, Devon. It is open from 8.30am until 3pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. It is open from 8.30am until 12pm on Thursday. The pre-school receives funding to provide free early education for children aged two, three and four years old. There are six members of staff working with the children, including the manager, all of whom hold level 3 qualifications.

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